



**For Immediate Release**  
August 22, 2007

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## **Community Development Leaders Gather to Improve Lives of Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians**

**(Honolulu, HI)** – National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD) and the Council of Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) today launched the first joint conference addressing shared concerns and hopes facing Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) and Native Hawaiian communities across the country.

This convention marks the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention for National CAPACD and the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Hawaiian Convention sponsored by CNHA. The groups are joining forces to share best practices, address common issues that are affecting AAPI communities across the mainland and Native Hawaiian communities in the Hawaiian islands. The theme of this year's convention is: "Communities United! Our Passions, Our Strengths, Our Future." This convention is a historic opportunity to partner with strong Native Hawaiian, AAPI, and community development advocacy groups, foundations, federal agencies and elected officials. The theme also expresses the urgency for policies to reflect our voices and institutions to recognize both the needs and assets of our diverse communities.

"The Annual Convention provides an exciting opportunity for community organizers, housing and economic development organizations and social service providers to gather and share ideas for community empowerment" said Lisa Hasegawa, Executive Director of National CAPACD.

The Convention will host a series of plenaries featuring prominent leaders in the community development field. Also included in the convention are interactive workshops where attendees can share best practices and lessons learned from their communities. In addition to the themed luncheons, two evening gatherings will highlight the Convention including the Hawaiian Grammy Awards and the Aloha Na Alii Banquet.

"We are honored to have such talented entertainers in Hawaii and are privileged to recognize their achievements," said Robin Danner, President & CEO of CNHA. "We are equally excited to bring together our native and AAPI communities to discuss many shared interests and issues. There are many native Hawaiian and AAPI leaders that are already making a difference in Hawaii and beyond. This joint-convention is one way to learn from those achievements and focus on the future."

Many national leaders are scheduled to address the issues facing Native Hawaiians and AAPIs to the conference attendees including: **Senator Daniel Akaka**, **Senator Daniel Inouye**, **Michael Rubinger**, President and CEO of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, **Ken Wade**, CEO of NeighborWorks America, **Kim Kendrick**, Assistant Secretary of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and other national and local leaders in the community development field.

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***National CAPACD** is the first national advocacy organization dedicated to addressing the housing and community development needs of the diverse and rapidly growing Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in the United States. National CAPACD is a coalition of more than 40 community-based organizations that joined together in 1999 in order to impact public policy, leverage resources, and garner support for issues critical to AAPI communities.*

***The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA)** is a national, member-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to capacity building and providing support services to agencies and organizations focused primarily on Native communities in Hawaii and the Pacific. We have served individuals, organizations, and corporations with tens of thousands of hours of support, consultations, and training.*